GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1583
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2005
STANDARD OF ENVIRONMENT IN FACTORIES
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that in most of the factories the safety and health standards are far below the international benchmark;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the international norms fixed; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to bring the said facilities at par with world class standards?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO)

(a): The provisions of the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder which regulate the safety and health of workers in the factories are at par with the provisions of the International Labour Organization (ILO) Convention No. 155 concerning Occupational Safety and Health (which includes work environment), and other related Conventions namely, Night Work, Overtime, Hours of Work, Maximum Weight, Minimum Age, Medical Examination of Young Persons, Guarding of Machinery, Benzene, Occupational Cancer, Occupational Health Services, Safety in the use of Asbestos, Safety in the use of Chemicals, etc.

(b): Does not arise.

(c): The ILO is engaged in setting International Standards in the field of labour protection including safety and health of workers employed in different sectors/occupations all over the world. The ILO formulates these Standards in the form of Conventions, Recommendations, Codes of Practices etc. The Standards adopted by the International Labour Conference are ratified by member States depending on their local requirements. India being one of the founder members of the ILO, has translated the provisions of Conventions concerning safety and health in the Factories Act, 1948 and the rules framed thereunder.

(d): The Factories Act, 1948 and the Rules made thereunder are at par with the provisions of the ILO Convention No.155 concerning Occupational Safety and Health (which includes work environment), and other related Conventions. The Factories Act, 1948 is a Central Legislation, but it is enforced by the States/ Union Territories. The Inspectorates of Factories ensure through their inspections of factories the compliance of the provisions by factory owners. Wherever violations are noticed, they take penal action as well as launch prosecutions as per the provisions of the Act.